

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as set forth below:

1. (Currently Amended) A computer accessible storage medium encoded with instructions which, when executed:

replicate a checkpoint segment from a first local storage of a first node to at least one other node, wherein the checkpoint segment is stored into the first local storage by an application, and wherein the checkpoint segment comprises a state of the application; and

load a copy of the replicated checkpoint segment from the at least one other node into a second local storage of a second node responsive to a request from the second node to load the copy, wherein the second node is to execute the application.

2. (Currently Amended) The computer accessible storage medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the checkpoint segment is identified by a checkpoint segment name that is unique within a cluster including the first node and the second node.

3. (Currently Amended) The computer accessible storage medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the at least one other node comprises two or more other nodes.

4. (Currently Amended) The computer accessible storage medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the request to load the copy is issued by the application executing on the second node.

5. (Currently Amended) The computer accessible storage medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the request to load the copy is issued by an agent that monitors the application on behalf of a cluster server.

6. (Currently Amended) The computer accessible storage medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the instructions, when executed, retrieve the copy from one of the at least one other node responsive to the request.

7. (Currently Amended) The computer accessible storage medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the at least one other node is configured to load the copy into a global storage, and wherein the instructions, when executed, retrieve the copy from the global storage responsive to the request.

8. (Currently Amended) The computer accessible storage medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the instructions, when executed, replicate the checkpoint segment by performing at least:

reading the checkpoint segment from the first local storage of the first node; and

transmitting the checkpoint segment to the at least one other node.

9. (Currently Amended) The computer accessible storage medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the instructions, when executed:

receive a retrieval request in the at least one other node; and

transmit the copy to a source of the retrieval request.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer accessible storage medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the instructions, when executed:

receive the checkpoint segment from the first node in the at least one other node;
and

store the checkpoint segment in the at least one other node.

11. (Currently Amended) The computer accessible storage medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the at least one other node is configured to load the copy into a global storage, and wherein the instructions, when executed:

receive the checkpoint segment from the first node; and

store the checkpoint segment in the global storage.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer accessible storage medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the at least one other node is not capable of executing the application.

13. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

an application storing a checkpoint segment of the application's state to a local storage of a first node on which the application is executing;

~~replicating a checkpoint segment from a~~ from the first local storage ~~of a~~ of the first node to at least one other node, ~~wherein the checkpoint segment is stored into the first local storage by an application, and wherein the checkpoint segment comprises a state of the application~~ node; and

loading a copy of the replicated checkpoint segment from the at least one other node into a ~~first~~ second local storage of a second node responsive to a request from the second node to load the copy, wherein the second node is to execute the application.

14. (Original) The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the at least one other node comprises two or more other nodes.

15. (Original) The method as recited in claim 13 further comprising issuing the request

to load the copy by the application executing on the second node.

16. (Original) The method as recited in claim 13 further comprising issuing the request to load the copy by an agent that monitors the application on behalf of a cluster server.

17. (Original) The method as recited in claim 13 further comprising retrieving the copy from one of the at least one other node responsive to the request.

18. (Original) The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the at least one other node is configured to load the copy into a global storage, the method further comprising retrieving the copy from the global storage responsive to the request.

19. (Original) The method as recited in claim 13 wherein replicating the checkpoint segment comprises:

reading the checkpoint segment from the first local storage of the first node; and

transmitting the checkpoint segment to the at least one other node.

20. (Original) The method as recited in claim 13 further comprising:

receiving a retrieval request in the at least one other node; and

transmitting the copy to a source of the retrieval request.

21. (Original) The method as recited in claim 13 further comprising:

receiving the checkpoint segment from the first node in the at least one other node; and

storing the checkpoint segment in the at least one other node.

22. (Original) The method as recited in claim 13 further comprising:

receiving the checkpoint segment from the first node; and

storing the checkpoint segment in a global storage.

23. (Original) The method as recited in claim 13 wherein the at least one other node is not capable of executing the application.

24. (Currently Amended) A cluster comprising a plurality of nodes, wherein a first node of the plurality of nodes is configured to replicate a checkpoint segment from a first local storage of the first node to at least one other node of the plurality of nodes, wherein the checkpoint segment is stored into the first local storage by an application executing on the first node, and wherein the checkpoint segment comprises a state of the application, and wherein a second node of the plurality of nodes is configured to load a copy of the replicated checkpoint segment from the at least one other node into a second local storage of the second node responsive to a request to load the copy, wherein the second node is to execute the application.

25. (Original) The cluster as recited in claim 24 wherein the at least one other node is not capable of executing the application.

26. (New) The computer accessible storage medium as recited in claim 1 wherein the instructions, when executed:

receive a request to register the checkpoint segment from the application; and

record a name of the checkpoint segment to access the checkpoint segment for replicating.

27. (New) The computer accessible storage medium as recited in claim 26 wherein the instructions, when executed:

select the at least one other node to which the checkpoint segment is to be replicated responsive to the request to register the checkpoint segment.

28. (New) The method as recited in claim 13 further comprising:

the application registering the checkpoint segment; and

recording a name of the checkpoint segment to access the checkpoint segment for replicating responsive to the registering.

29. (New) The method as recited in claim 28 further comprising:

selecting the at least one other node to which the checkpoint segment is to be replicated responsive to the registering.